

36

wave
LISTEN
TO ME!

HIROAKI SAMURA

wave

LISTEN TO ME!

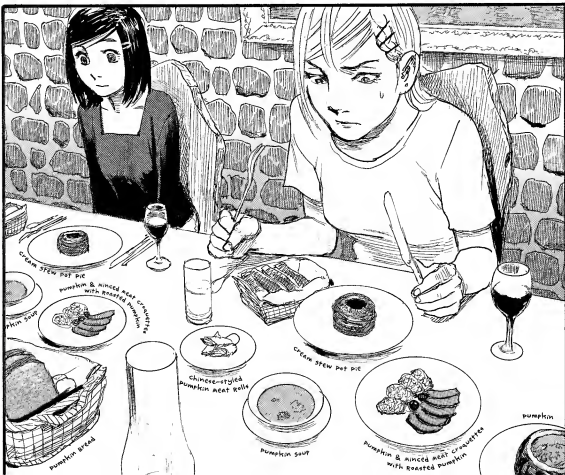
HIROAKI
SAMURA

Chapter

36

[SHAMED BE THE MAN! WHOM SPURNS A WOMAN'S ADVANCES!]





THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE OR GROUPS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.



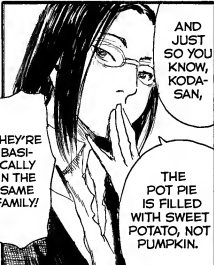
NO...
I'M FINE,
BUT...

IS
SOME-
THING THE
MATTER,
KODA-
SAN?

...IS
THERE A
COMMANDMENT
IN YOUR GUYS'
DOCTRINE THAT
HAS TO DO WITH
PUMPKIN OR
SOMETHING?

THE
STORY
SO FAR

UNDER FM STATION WORKER MATO'S GUIDANCE, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ, AND MANAGES TO GET BY ONE SHOW AT A TIME. MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO MOVES TO MAKE A CAREER SHIFT AND BEGINS PLANNING A TRIP TO WASSAMU TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR A NEW BOOK, TO WHICH MIZUHO ANE BY A MINARE ACCOMPANY HIM ON. HOWEVER, THEY FALL PREY TO THEIR GUIDE, HOKAKUSHI'S, TRAP, AND ARE TAKEN HOSTAGE BY A RELIGIOUS GROUP.



THEY'RE
BASI-
CALLY
IN THE
SAME
FAMILY!

AND
JUST
SO YOU
KNOW,
KODA-
SAN,

THE
POT PIE
IS FILLED
WITH SWEET
POTATO, NOT
PUMPKIN.



SO,
IN AN
EFFORT TO
FORGE AN
AMICABLE
RELATION-
SHIP, WE
GO OUT OF
OUR WAY
TO PUR-
CHASE THE
REGIONAL
PRODUCE.



WASSAMU
HAS THE
MOST
PUMPKIN
PLANTA-
TIONS IN
ALL OF
JAPAN.



I OCCASIONALLY
INVITE MEMBERS OF
THE BROADCASTING
INDUSTRY OVER FOR
DINNER, BUT NEVER
HAS MY TABLE BEEN
GRACED WITH SO
MANY BEAUTIES
BEFORE.

MY,
WHAT AN
INVIGO-
RATING
DAY.



WORD
HAS IT THAT
ALTERNATIVE
RELIGIOUS
GROUPS
TEND TO
BUMP HEADS
WITH LOCAL
RESIDENTS.



THE VIDEO
YOU SAW WAS
RECORDED
QUITE SOME
TIME AGO,
YOU SEE.

OH,
HOW
EMBAR-
RASS-
ING.



I WOULD
LIKEN KODA-
SAN TO A
JAPANESE
YAM,

FOR A
RELIGION-
IST, HE'S
PRETTY
BAD AT
META-
PHORS...

WHILE
NANBA-SAN IS
MORE LIKE A
PETITE TARO.

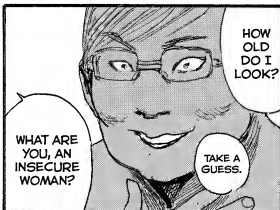


YEAH,
YOU LOOK
SO THIN I'D
SWEAR YOU
WERE A
NEUTRON
STAR.

NOT AT ALL.
YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE
YOU DID ON
CAMERA.

I'D LIKE TO
HAVE LOST A
LITTLE WEIGHT
BEFORE
MEETING
YOU ALL.

I'VE
GAINED
SOME 60
POUNDS
SINCE
THEN.



WHAT ARE
YOU, AN
INSECURE
WOMAN?

HOW
OLD
DO I
LOOK?

TAKE A
GUESS.

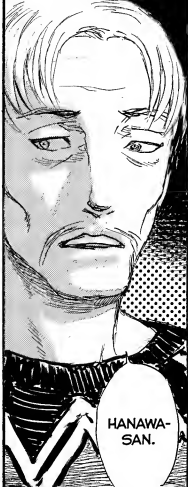


MAY I ASK
HOW OLD
YOU ARE,
TRIKUMA-
SAN...?



YOU'D LIKE
US TO MAKE A
SHOW DIRECTED
BY YOU TO BE
BROADCAST
ON MRS,
CORRECT?

ACCORD-
ING TO
HOKA-
KUSHI-
SAN,



HANAWA-
SAN.

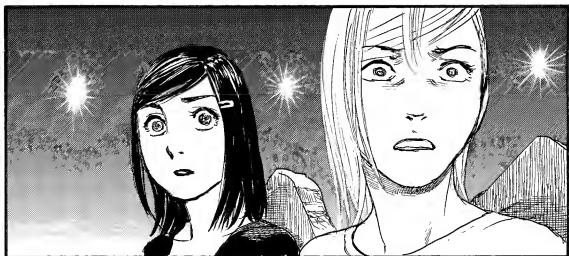


I TAKE IT
YOU DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE HERE,
THEN?



UNFORTU-
NATELY, WE
DON'T HAVE
THAT KIND OF
AUTHORITY.

I DON'T
SUPPOSE
WE CAN
TURN DOWN
THIS JOB,
CAN WE?



...AND
FED ON THE
UNDERBELLY
OF THE
INDUSTRY,
IS IT?



I'M
GUESSING
THIS ISN'T THE
FIRST TIME
YOU'VE TAKEN
BROADCASTING
PROFESSIONALS
HOSTAGE...

THAT
TUNNEL
AND HOLE
CLEARLY
WEREN'T
CONSTRUCTED
RECENTLY.



THINK-
ING
BACK
ON IT,



...THE
WORLD'S FIRST
TERRESTRIAL
BROADCASTING
STATION WITH-
OUT ITS OWN
FREQUENCY.

PRECISELY.
WE ARE...



IS
THIS
DUDE
OKAY
IN THE
HEAD?

AND THOSE
PEOPLE HAVE
A MONOPOLY
ON WHAT LITTLE
AIRWAVES ARE
AVAILABLE.



WE REFUSE
TO FOLLOW
THE BROAD-
CASTING
STATIONS' EVERY
WHIM.

I BELIEVE
WE ARE
FAR MORE
CAPABLE
THAN ANY
DIRECTOR,
YOU SEE.

THEN
MAKE YOUR
OWN DAMN
SHOWS!



WHY
ARE YOU
GOING
THROUGH
ALL THIS
TROUBLE?

CAN'T YOU
JUST START
YOUR OWN
PRODUCTION
COMPANY?

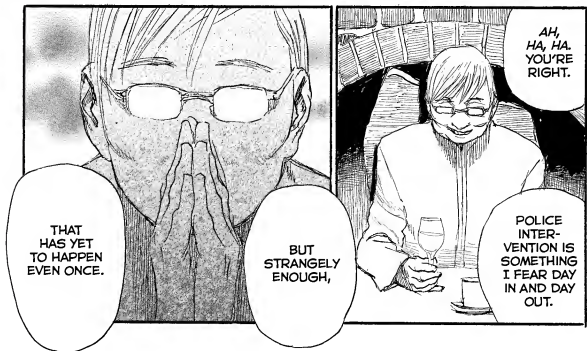
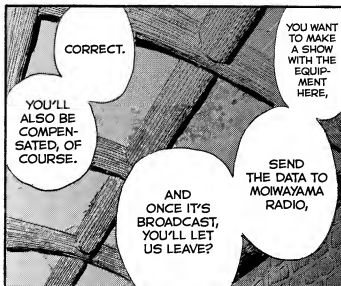


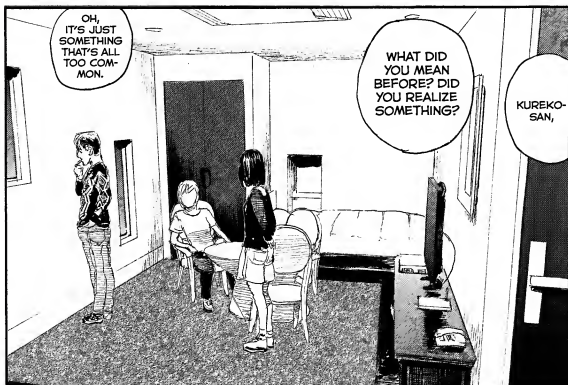
WHAT'S
THE HARM
IN CUTTING
OUT A LITTLE
SPACE FOR
OURSELVES?

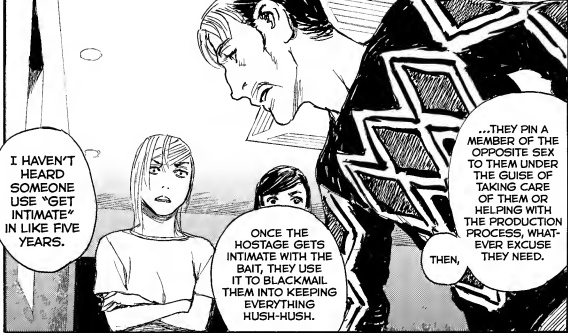


...ARE NOTHING
BUT PUZZLERS WHO
PUT TOGETHER THE
PIECES OF MATERIAL
THE PRODUCTION
COMPANIES HAND
TO THEM.

MEMBERS
OF KEY
STATIONS...





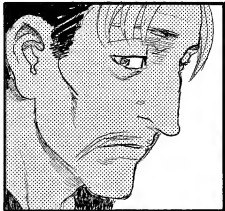


I HAVEN'T
HEARD
SOMEONE
USE "GET
INTIMATE"
IN LIKE FIVE
YEARS.

ONCE THE
HOSTAGE GETS
INTIMATE WITH THE
BAIT, THEY USE
IT TO BLACKMAIL
THEM INTO KEEPING
EVERYTHING
HUSH-HUSH.

...THEY PIN A
MEMBER OF THE
OPPOSITE SEX
TO THEM UNDER
THE GUISE OF
TAKING CARE
OF THEM OR
HELPING WITH
THE PRODUCTION
PROCESS, WHAT-
EVER EXCUSE
THEY NEED.

THEN,

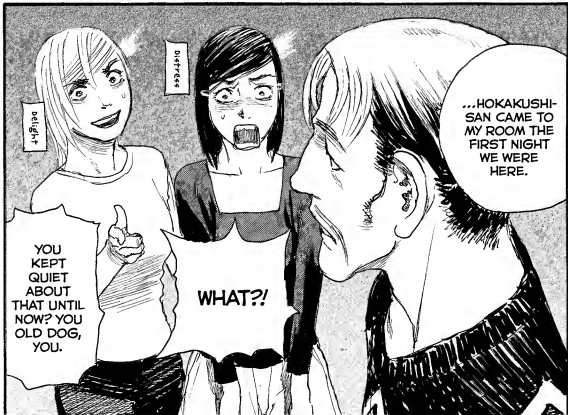


HAS
SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT
ALREADY
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
KUREKO-
SAN?



IF
YOU'VE
CAUGHT
ON TO
THEM,
THEN...

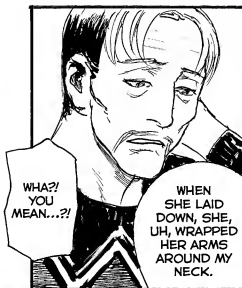
UM...

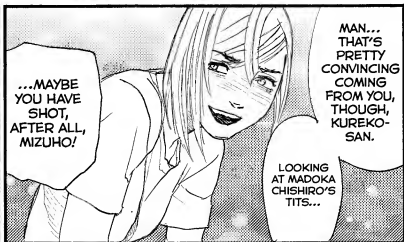


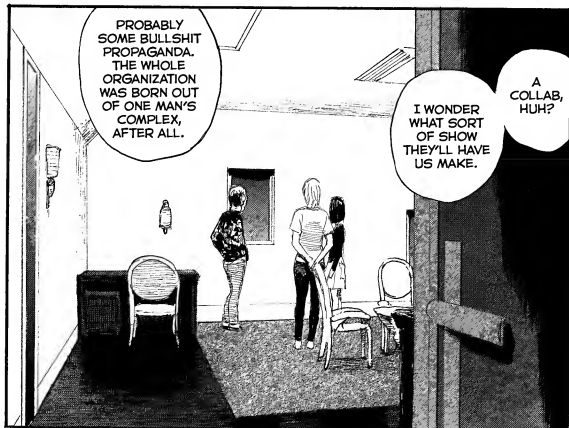
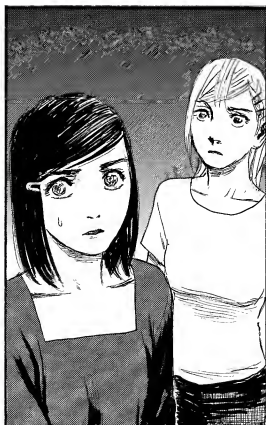
YOU
KEPT
QUIET
ABOUT
THAT UNTIL
NOW? YOU
OLD DOG,
YOU.

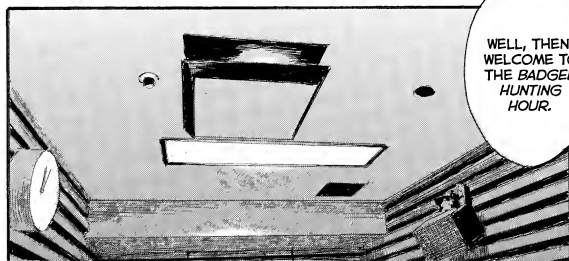
WHAT?!

...HOKAKUSHI-
SAN CAME TO
MY ROOM THE
FIRST NIGHT
WE WERE
HERE.











DUM DUM
PAP PAP

LET'S
HAVE A
ROUND
OF AP-
PLAUSE!

WITH US THIS
EVENING IS
THE ONE AND
ONLY JOKER
SKONSKY!

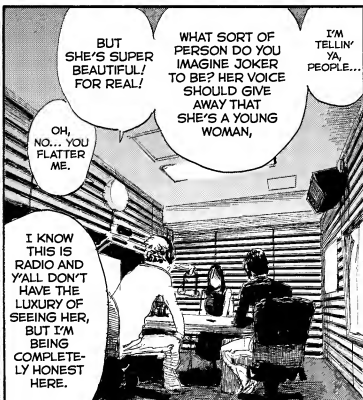
WE HAVE
A SPECIAL
TREAT FOR
YOU ALL!

UM...
THANK
YOU FOR
HAVING
ME.



HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?

UM...
24.



BUT
SHE'S SUPER
BEAUTIFUL!
FOR REAL!

WHAT SORT OF
PERSON DO YOU
IMAGINE JOKER
TO BE? HER VOICE
SHOULD GIVE
AWAY THAT
SHE'S A YOUNG
WOMAN,

I'M
TELLIN'
YA,
PEOPLE...

OH,
NO... YOU
FLATTER
ME.

I KNOW
THIS IS
RADIO AND
Y'ALL DON'T
HAVE THE
LUXURY OF
SEEING HER,
BUT I'M
BEING
COMPLETE-
LY HONEST
HERE.



THIS GUY GETS EXCITED WHEN SOMEONE'S LOOKS AND PERSONALITY DON'T MATCH UP.

Y-YES. SORRY.

MAGGOT THERAPY

WITH YOUR LOOKS?!

YOU'RE KIDDING ME! YOU WROTE ABOUT THOSE THEMES LIKE, "INTERIOR DECORATING BY AN ABASHIRI PRISON CONVICT," AND "I LEFT MY VAGINA SOMEWHERE?!"



OH... BECAUSE I LOVE SCONES.

AND HOW'D YOU COME UP WITH SKONSKY?

YES, MY REAL NAME IS MIXED IN.

AH, I SEE WHERE YOU GOT JOKER FROM.

LET'S SEE. YOU WORK AT A RESTAURANT IN SAPPORO?



WHAT SORT OF RADIO DO YOU USUALLY LISTEN TO, JOKER?

YOU REALLY WANNA DIVE INTO THAT?

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SCONES?



UM... DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, I HAD TO DROP OUT OF COLLEGE AND HAVE MORE OR LESS BEEN A SHUT-IN.

THE OJZ?!

BUT I LISTEN TO THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN* THE MOST.

GOOD QUESTION. I SUPPOSE IT'S BEEN MORE OUT OF NECESSITY,



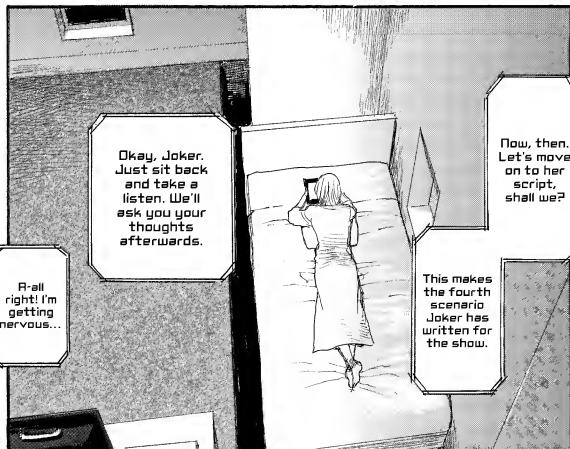
AH, HA,
HA...

THAT'S
FANTASTIC.

I WAS
WONDERING
WHY SUCH A
LOVELY LADY
WAS WRITING
INTO OUR
SHOW.

THAT
WAS THE CASE
WITH PENCIL
ALLEY, TOO. NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT, WE
ONLY EVER GET
SHUT-INS ON
THIS SHOW.

I THOUGHT
I SMELLED
A KINDRED
SPIRIT.



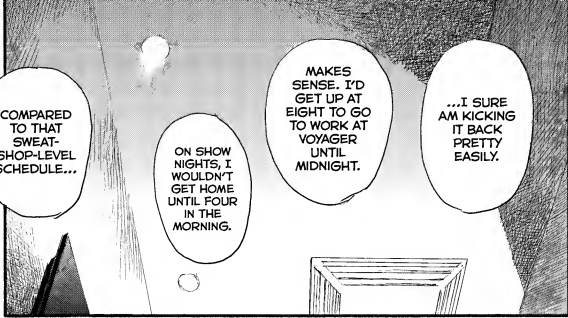
Okay, Joker.
Just sit back
and take a
listen. We'll
ask you your
thoughts
afterwards.

Now, then.
Let's move
on to her
script,
shall we?

R-all
right! I'm
getting
nervous...

This makes
the fourth
scenario
Joker has
written for
the show.





COMPARED
TO THAT
SWEAT-
SHOP-LEVEL
SCHEDULE...

ON SHOW
NIGHTS, I
WOULDN'T
GET HOME
UNTIL FOUR
IN THE
MORNING.

MAKES
SENSE. I'D
GET UP AT
EIGHT TO GO
TO WORK AT
VOYAGER
UNTIL
MIDNIGHT.

...I SURE
AM KICKING
IT BACK
PRETTY
EASILY.

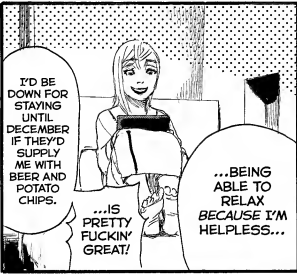


BUT NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT,
I GOT UP
PRETTY
EARLY
TODAY.

I WANNA
MAKE
THE
MOST
OF THIS,

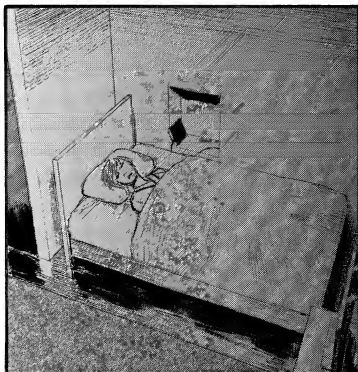


I'D BE
DOWN FOR
STAYING
UNTIL
DECEMBER
IF THEY'D
SUPPLY
ME WITH
BEER AND
POTATO
CHIPS.

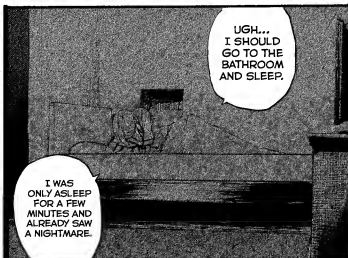
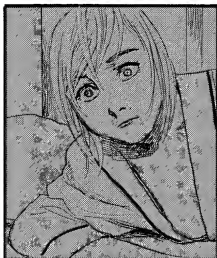


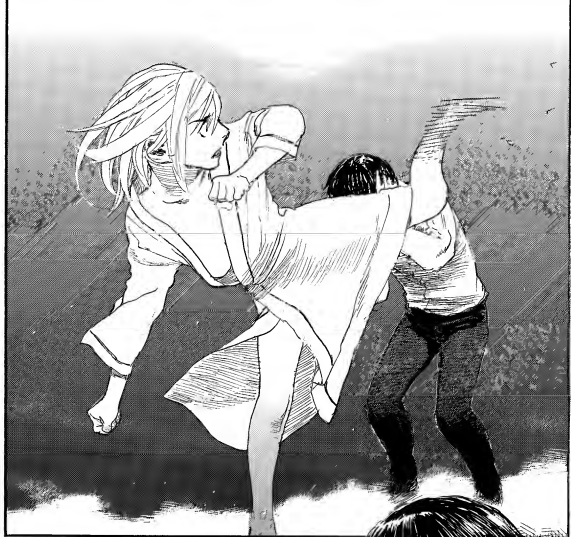
...IS
PRETTY
FUCKIN'
GREAT!

...BEING
ABLE TO
RELAX
BECAUSE I'M
HELPLESS...



I'LL
JUST GO TO
BED. WE'RE
PROBABLY
GONNA
BE HERE
A WHILE,
ANYWAY.





HONEY
TRAP...

